

## **PLATFORM-INDEPENDENT DISTRIBUTED USER INTERFACE SERVER ARCHITECTURE**

### **ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION**

5           A distributed user interface (UI) system includes a client device configured to  
render a UI for a server-based application. The client device communicates with a UI  
server over a network such as the Internet. The UI server performs formatting for the  
UI, which preferably utilizes a number of native UI controls that are available locally  
at the client device. In this manner, the client device need only be responsible for the  
10       actual rendering of the UI. The source data items are downloaded from the UI server  
to the client device when necessary, and the client device populates the UI with the  
downloaded source data items. The client device employs a cache to store the source  
data items locally for easy retrieval.